

# **CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**JULY 14, 2005**

## **MINUTES**

**The regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, July 14, 2005 at the Administrative Office/Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, was called to order at 7:35 PM, by Chairman Paul Neves, with the following present:**

**Paul Neves, Chairman, Donald J. Costa, Vice Chair, Arthur DeCosta, Clerk,**

**Rosa Crowley, Linda Teel, Robert C. Thibodeau, Earl T. Wood**

**Also Present: Donna A. Morelle, Ed.D., Superintendent; Joseph A. Rotella, Esq., Director Legal Services/Employee Relations**

**I. Pledge of Allegiance - The Pledge of Allegiance was led by committee members.**

**II. Approval of Agenda - On a motion by Mr. DaCosta, and a second by Ms. Crowley, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the agenda.**

**III. Chairperson's Report - None.**

**IV. Comments from the Public - None.**

## **V. Reports of Standing Committees**

**A. Curriculum Committee - On a motion by Ms. Teel, and a second by Mr. DaCosta, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the recommendation to identify Ashton School as a benchmark school, provide professional development opportunities, continue the work of additional steering committees to look at the needs of students PK-12 and develop a process of identification for specialized populations.**

**Dr. Morelle explained they are already beginning the professional development and the additional steering committees would probably begin with the new Assistant Superintendent.**

**B. Finance Committee - On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Mr. Thibodeau, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE payment of bills in the amount of \$493,198.59.**

## **VI. Consent Agenda**

**A. Police Report - It was noted this was not received.**

**B. Approval of Minutes**

**1. Open Session: May 12, 26, June 9, 18, 2005**

**2. Executive Session: May 12, June 9, 2005**

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**C. Maintenance Report**

**D. Enrollments Report**

**E. Building Use Report**

**On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Ms. Crowley and Mr. Thibodeau, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE tabling the June 18, 2005 Open Session Minutes as the package contained draft minutes, not final copy. The Consent Agenda was approved by UNANIMOUS CONSENT.**

## **VII. Old Business**

**A. Building Committee Update - The Superintendent introduced Bruce Steele to report on the CHS2010 project. Mr. Steele reported construction is moving slowly; the remaining concrete slab work is scheduled for next week and the masonry work is progressing. The interior renovation is scheduled for completion by the start of the school year. There was a delay in starting the curtain wall; the trailer was delivered today. The unit ventilators have been delivered. Mr. Thibodeau asked if Mr. Steele is confident the activity will pick up and he explained the delays for the interior work has been worked through and he is confident the interior work will be completed by the start of school. The curtain wall won't be done by the start of school and would be very disruptive, so they are working with the contractor on this. The Chair requested Mr. Steele attend the first meeting of the month for the next couple months and continue submitting an executive summary. The Chair requested a financial report with the executive summary. Mr. Neves stated he was upset that Mr. DePasquale chose not to appear and will be requested to attend the next meeting.**

**B. Search Committee Update - Mr. Rotella reported there are two**

finalists for the principal position at Community School and references are being checked in preparation of interviews with the Superintendent. The advertisement is closing for the principal position at Cumberland Hill and they will be setting up interviews. There will be a scheduled meeting for the search committee for the Assistant Superintendent. The job pool will be held July 28th at 9:00 a.m. in the High School Auditorium.

C. 2005-2006 Budget - The Superintendent reported sending a letter to Mayor Iwuc regarding the reconciled budget. She thanked the Business Manager for her work during the budget workshops.

## **VIII. New Business**

A. Transportation Update - The Superintendent reported Mr. Walter and Mr. Jones of Durham School Services were present. Mr. Rotella reported he had drafted and sent out a contract to Durham School Services. He noted a certificate from the RI Secretary of State's office is required and Durham School Services is submitting a certificate of their corporation. Mr. Walter reported they have interviewed 33 drivers and 18 aides.

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They are in the process of registering the buses and getting them inspected. They will have Cumberland on the sides of the buses. He introduced Ms. Gagnon who will be the General Manager. He

**reported they are building a facility off Martin Street.**

## **IX. Superintendent's Recommendations**

**A. Personnel Recommendations - The Superintendent presented the following:**

**1. On a motion by Ms. Crowley, and a second by the balance of the committee, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the appointment of Richard Hilton, to the position of Director of Buildings and Grounds in the Cumberland School Department, effective August 1, 2005 (budgeted). Mr. Hilton was welcomed by the committee.**

**2. On a motion by Ms. Crowley, and a second by Mr. Thibodeau, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the resignation of Paul Murphy, Assistant Football Coach at Cumberland High School, effective June 21, 2005, with Mr. Costa off the dias. The Superintendent wished him well.**

**3. On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. DaCosta, it was VOTED 6-1 TO APPROVE the resignation of Gregory Zenion, Principal at Cumberland Hill/Annex, effective July 13, 2005, with Mr. Wood voting against. Mr. Wood recognized Mr. Zenion for his work and noted he will be missed.**

**4. On a motion by Mr. DaCosta, and a second by Ms. Teel, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the Maternity Leave of Betsy Yost, Grade 3 Teacher at Community School, effective October 3, 2005.**

**5. Mr. Thibodeau made a motion to approve the request of Leslee Deslauriers and Tracie Drolet to share the position selected at the**

upcoming job pool. Mr. DaCosta provided a second. Discussion ensued regarding Ms. Deslauriers having been displaced and that she is more senior. There was concern expressed for having two job share positions at the same school. Mr. Wood made a motion to table. Mr. DaCosta provided a second. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 5-2 TO TABLE, with the following voting AYE: Ms. Crowley, Mr. Costa, Mr. DaCosta, Mr. Wood, Mr. Neves; NAY: Ms. Teel, Mr. Neves.

6. On a motion by Mr. DaCosta, and a second by Mr. Thibodeau, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the request of Margaret Ratcliffe and Andrea Friedland to share the position of Grade 2 Teacher at Community School, effective August 29, 2005 (budgeted).

B. General Comments - The Superintendent reported she was just informed that a graduate of the Class of 2005, Stephanie Ferreira, will be named the Journal Bulletin's School Honor Roll Girl Athlete. The award is very prestigious based on academics and athletics.

X. Comments from the Public - None

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XI. School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports) - Mr. Thibodeau congratulated Dr. Morelle on her first meeting as Superintendent. Mr. Neves commented on the Save Our Schools float

**in the 4th of July Parade and the Cumberland Middle School Band. Mr. Wood congratulated Cumberland Hill for their Aladdin float taking third place.**

**XII. Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion and/or Action Items Referred to in GLRI 42-46-5**

**A. Personnel Matters - Exception (1)**

- 1. CTA/ICSE**
- 2. Superintendent's Annual Objectives**

**B. Negotiations/Litigation - Exception (2)**

- 1. CTA/ICSE**
- 2. Non-Contractual Salaries**
- 3. Administrative Salaries**

**Mr. DaCosta made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session. Ms. Crowley provided a second. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 6-1 TO APPROVE the motion, with Mr. Costa voting against. Open session recessed at 8:50 p.m.**

**Open Session reconvened at 9:26 p.m. On a motion by Ms. Teel, and a second by Ms. Crowley, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE sealing the Executive Session minutes.**

**XIII. Adjournment - On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. DaCosta, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE adjourning at 9:27 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Shirley Harris**

**Recording Secretary**